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ABSTRACT

In May 1991, College of the Canyons (CC) in Valencia, California, conducted a survey of 35 former students who had completed the Registered Nursing program in December 1990 to elicit information on their educational experiences and subsequent employment. Responses were received from 25 former students for a 71% response rate. Study findings included the following: (1) 96% of the respondents said that if they were starting college over again, they would select a Nursing major; (2) 92% of the respondents indicated that when they originally enrolled, CC was their first choice; (3) 36% of the respondents cited "location" as their primary reason for attending CC, while 32% cited the "quality of the nursing program"; (4) 44% of the respondents said that they were primarily enrolled full-time, while another 44% indicated that they had been enrolled for less than 12 units per term at CC; (5) 40% of the respondents indicated that while at CC, they had spent 4 to 10 hours each week studying or preparing for classes, while another 36% reported spending 11 to 15 hours each week; (6) 32% of the respondents reported having grade point averages (GPA's) of 3.5 to 4.0, while another 56% reported GPA's of 3.0 to 3.4; (7) only four of the respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the program; (8) nine respondents noted the need for more clinical practice; (9) 80% of the respondents reported full-time employment; (10) 48% of the respondents felt that CC did an "excellent" job in preparing them for their current job; (11) 50% of the respondents reported a current annual salary of between $30,000 to $39,999; and (12) all of the respondents were female, 84% were white, and 64% were 30 to 49 years of age. The survey instrument is included. (PAA)

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College of the Canyons
Santa Clarita Community College District

REGISTERED NURSING ALUMNI SURVEY

Office of Institutional Development

November 1991

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REGISTERED NURSING ALUMNI SURVEY

In May 1991 the Registered Nursing Alumni Survey was sent to the 35 alumni who completed the Registered Nursing program in December 1990. Replies were received from 25 students for a response rate of 71 percent.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

o Nearly all the respondents (96 percent) said that if they were starting college over again, they would select a Nursing major.

o Ninety-two (92) percent indicated that College of the Canyons was their first choice when they first enrolled.

o When asked the **primary** reason they chose to attend College of the Canyons, 36 percent said it was because of "location", while 32 percent said it was due to the "quality of Nursing Program."

o Forty-four (44) percent of the respondents said they were primarily enrolled full-time, while another forty-four (44) percent indicated they were enrolled for less than 12 units per term while a student at the college.

o When asked "About how many **hours per week** did you usually spend studying or preparing for your classes," alumni gave the following responses:

4% -- 1 to 3 hours
40% -- 4 to 10 hours
36% -- 11 to 15 hours
16% -- 16 to 20 hours
4% -- More than 20 hours

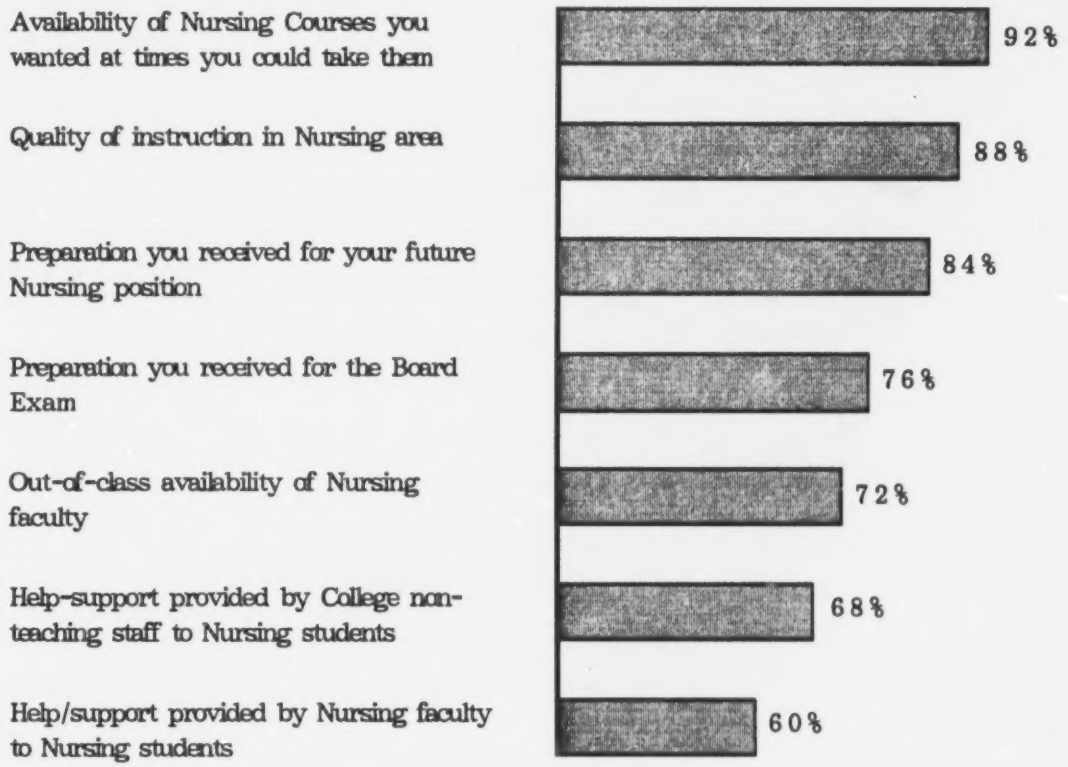
o Nearly all reported that they did well academically. The respondents indicated that they had the following final GPA's:

32% -- 3.5 to 4.0 GPA
56% -- 3.0 to 3.4 GPA
8% -- 2.5 to 2.9 GPA
4% -- No Response

o Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the Nursing Alumni thought the college provided a better quality education than other colleges.

TABLE 1

Percentage of Nursing Alumni Indicating They Were Either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" With the Following Aspects of the Nursing Program


Availability of Nursing Courses you wanted at times you could take them
92%
Quality of instruction in Nursing area
88%
Preparation you received for your future Nursing position
84%
Preparation you received for the Board Exam
76%
Out-of-class availability of Nursing faculty
72%
Help-support provided by College non-teaching staff to Nursing students
68%
Help/support provided by Nursing faculty to Nursing students
60%

Source: Registered Nursing Alumni Survey, May 1991

o Only four alumni provided comments when asked to indicate why they were dissatisfied with the Nursing Program.

Three of the comments seem critical of how students were treated.
- "Distant, dictatorship, too controlling, cold."
- "More compassionate faculty"
- "The school nearly didn't let us have a graduation. They didn't give us the respect we deserved as a class."

These negative comments may stem from the decision to discontinue a separate graduation ceremony for R.N. graduates.

The fourth comment seems critical of classroom instruction practices.
- "For as long as these instructors have worked together, they were disorganized -- which put stress on the students."

o Two-thirds of the alumni generously offered suggestions on how the R.N. Program might be improved.

- Nine alumni noted the need for "more clinical practice." They wanted more experience working with multiple patients so that they could learn time management and floor procedures. One student thoughtfully suggested that the student's patient load be gradually increased so that the student has a more realistic conception of patient care. Another two students suggested that there be more variety in the clinical settings available -- such as "County Hospital in order to get medical-surgical experience." One student suggested "scheduling of class time with training time in the hospitals."

- Four alumni mentioned that they would have liked more training with IV's, both in lecture and clinic.

- Two R.N.'s said they could have used better training in "nutrition."

- Other comments included:
    - "Better choice of books"
    - "Practice with charting SOAP"
    - " More TPN"

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

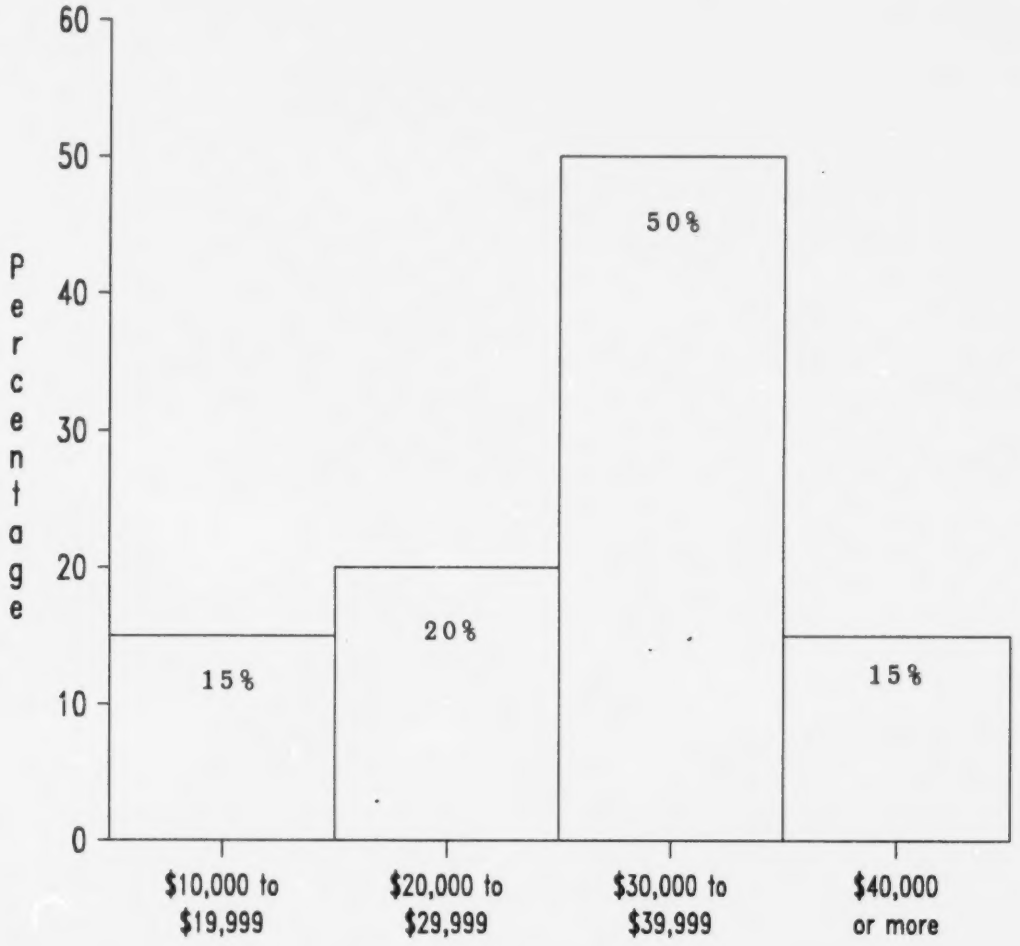
o All the Nursing Alumni reported they were currently employed. Eighty (80) percent indicated that they were employed full-time.

o Seventy two (72) percent of the Nursing Alumni reported that they already had their current job before leaving College of the Canyons. Another 8 percent said they secured a job just prior to leaving the college. Only 16 percent of the respondents indicated that it took 1 to 3 months for them to find a job. No one reported that their job search took longer than 3 months.

o Nearly half the Nursing Alumni (48 percent) felt that College of the Canyons did an "excellent" job in preparing them for their current job. Another 40 percent said the college provided them with "good" preparation.

TABLE 2

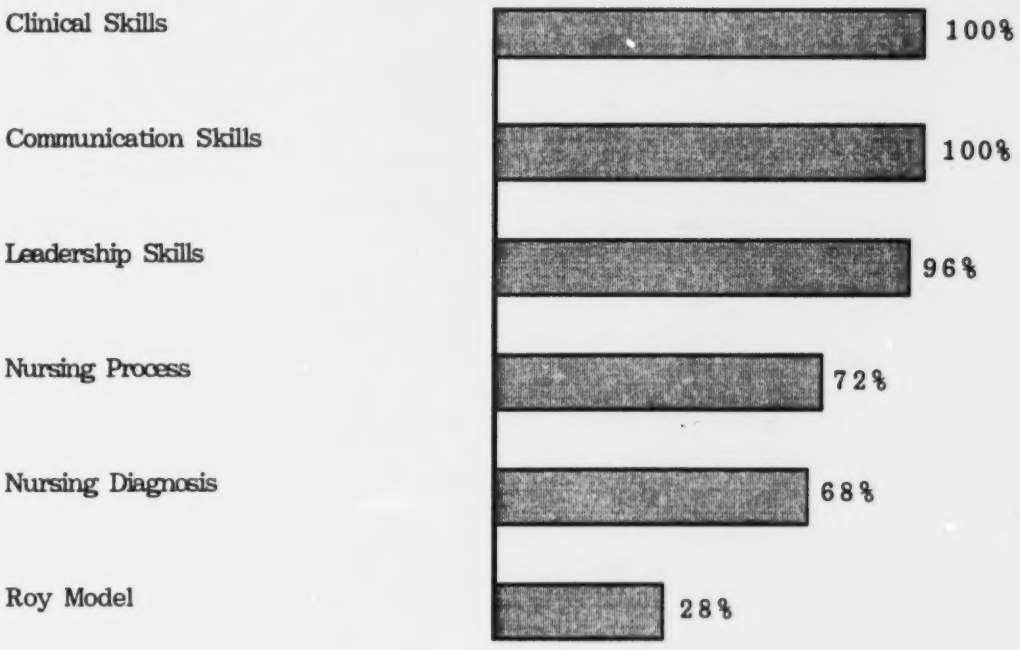
Current Annual Salary of Nursing Alumni Employed Full-Time



Source: Registered Nursing Alumni Survey, May 1991.

TABLE 3

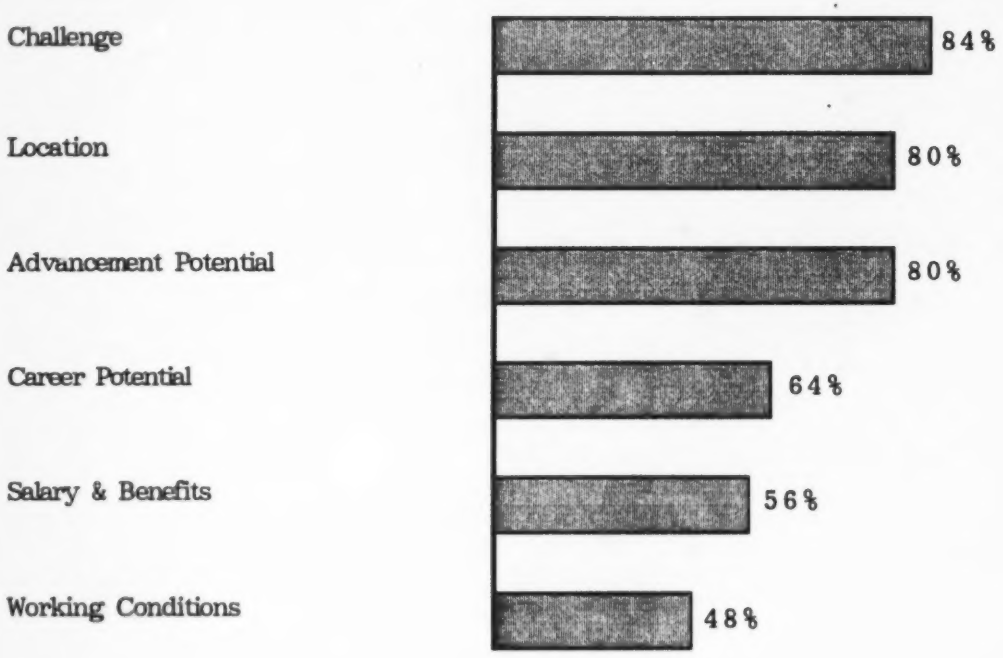
Percentage of Nursing Alumni Who Indicated They Use the Following Skills/Processes Either "Very Much" or "Quite A Bit" in Their Current Position



Source: Registered Nursing Alumni Survey, May 1991.

TABLE 4

Percentage of Nursing Alumni Indicating They Are Either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" With the Following Aspects of Their Present Job



Source: Registered Nursing Alumni Survey, May 1991.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

o The majority of Nursing Alumni respondents were White, middle-age females.

-- 100 percent were females

-- 84 percent were Caucasian/White

-- 64 percent were 30 to 49 years of age

o A sizeable percentage of the Nursing Alumni (44 percent) lived outside the Santa Clarita Community College District while enrolled at the college.

APPENDIX

REGISTERED NURSING ALUMNI SURVEY

RESPONDENTS = 25 of 35
71% RESPONSE RATE.

College of the Canyons
REGISTERED NURSING ALUMNI SURVEY

DIRECTIONS: The information you supply in this questionnaire will be kept completely confidential. Your Social Security number is requested for research puposes only and will not be listed in any report. If any item requests information that you do not wish to provide, please feel free to omit it. Thank you for your participation.

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is your Social Security number?
   _____ - _____ - _____

2. Age:
   0% 19 or under
   0% 20 or 21
   4% 22 or 23
   12% 24 or 25
   16% 26 to 29
   (32%)
   40% 30 to 39
   24% 40 to 49
   4% 50 to 59
   0% 60 or Over

3. Racial/Ethnic Group:
   12% Afro-American/Black
   0 American Indian or Alaskan Native
   84 Caucasian-American/White
   4 Mexican-American/Chicano
   0 Asian-American, Oriental, or Pacific Islander
   0 Puerto Rican, Cuban or Other Hispanic Origin
   0 Other _____
   0 Prefer Not to Respond

4. Sex:
   100% Female
   0 Male

5. How long did you attend College of the Canyons?
   0% One term
   24 One Year
   8 Two Years
   24 Three Years
   16 Four Years
   28 More than four years

6. While you were enrolled at College of the Canyons, what was your zip code?
   56% FROM SCCCD
   44% OUT-OF-DISTRICT

7. In what year did you complete the Registered Nursing program at College of the Canyons?
   1990 88%
   1991 12%

8. What was your primary enrollment status at College of the Canyons prior to your acceptance into the Nursing Program?
   44% Full-time Student (12 or more units per term)
   44% Part-time Student
   12% NO RESPONSE

B. EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

9. When you entered the Licensed Registered Nursing program at College of the Canyons, were you a Nursing Assistant?
   4% Yes – ONE RESPONDENT
   96% No

10. If "yes," where did you receive your Nursing Assistant training?
    ___ Regional Occupational Program (ROP)
    ✓ Hospital
    ___ Community college
    ___ Private school
    ✓ Nursing home
    ___ Other, specify _____

11. Indicate your rating of College of the Canyons when you first enrolled.
    92% It was my first choice
    8% It was my second choice
    0 It was my third choice
    0 It was my fourth choice or lower

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12. Indicate the **primary** reason you chose to attend College of the Canyons.

36% Location
24% Reputation of the college
8% Low Cost
32% Quality of Nursing Program
0% Other, specify _____

13. How would you compare the quality of education provided at College of the Canyons with that of other colleges?

64% Better
24% About the Same
0% Worse
12% Unable to Judge

14. If you could start college over, would you select a Nursing major?

48% Definitely Yes
48% Probably Yes
0% Uncertain
4% Probably No
0% Definitely No

15. Please CIRCLE the number indicating your level of satisfaction with each of the following aspects of the Nursing Program at College of the Canyons.

5 - Very Satisfied
4 - Satisfied
3 - Neutral
2 - Dissatisfied
1 - Very Dissatisfied
0 - Does Not Apply

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHECKED THESE TWO CATEGORIES

88% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Quality of Instruction in Nursing Area
72% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Out-of-Class Availability of Nursing Faculty
60% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Help/Support provided by Nursing Faculty to Nursing Students
76% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Preparation you received for the Board Exam
84% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Preparation you received for your future Nursing position
92% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Availability of Nursing Courses You Wanted at Times You Could Take Them
68% 5 4 3 2 1 0 Help/Support provided by College Nonteaching Staff to Nursing Students

16. If you circled number "1" or "2" for any of the items above, Please indicate why you were dissatisfied.

_____
_____

17. About how many hours a week did you usually spend studying or preparing for your classes?

4% 1 to 3 hours
40% 4 to 10 hours
36% 11 to 15 hours
16% 16 to 20 hours
4% More than 20 hours

18. What was your FINAL grade point average at College of the Canyons? (4.0 = A; 3.0 = B; 2.0 = C)

32% 4.0 to 3.5
56% 3.4 to 3.0
8% 2.9 to 2.5
__ 2.4 to 2.0
__ Below 2.0
4% No Response

19. In thinking about the training you received in the Registered Nursing program, were there some things that you felt could have been impoved?

_____
_____
_____

C. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

20. Which of the following BEST describes what you are currently doing?

100% Employed (Including Full-time, Part-time and Self-Employment)
0 Continuing My Education (College, Vocational School)
0 Serving in the Armed Forces
0 Caring for a Home/Family
0 Unemployed
0 Retired
0 Other _____

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ONLY IF YOU HAVE HELD A JOB SINCE LEAVING COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS. OTHERWISE, SKIP TO QUESTION 31.

21. How long did it take you to obtain your first job after leaving College of the Canyons?

72% Had a job which I continued after I completed my program
8% Obtained a job just prior to leaving College of the Canyons
4% Less than 1 month
16% 1 to 3 months
0% 4 to 6 months

22. I am currently employed:

80% Full-time
16% Part-time
4% Other _____

23. What is your annual salary/income in your current job?

0% Less than $10,000
8% $10,000 to $14,999
12% $15,000 to $19,999
16% $20,000 to $24,999
8% $25,000 to $29,999
20% $30,000 to $34,999
20% $35,000 to $39,999
12% $40,000 or more
4% NO RESPONSE

24. How well did College of the Canyons prepare you for your current job?

48% Excellent preparation
40% Good preparation
12% Adequate preparation
0% Inadequate preparation. Please explain

_____

_____

0% Not applicable

25. In thinking about the Nursing courses you took at College of the Canyons, please CIRCLE the number indicating to what extent you use each of the following in your current position.

4 - Very Much
3 - Quite A Bit
2 - Some
1 - Very Little

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHECKED THESE TWO CATEGORIES

4 3 2 1 Clinical Skills 100%
4 3 2 1 Communication Skills 100%
4 3 2 1 Leadership Skills 96%
4 3 2 1 Nursing Diagnosis 68%
4 3 2 1 Nursing Process 72%
4 3 2 1 Roy Model 28%

26. Please CIRCLE the number indicating your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of your present job.

5 - Very satisfied
4 - Satisfied
3 - Neutral
2 - Dissatisfied
1 - Very dissatisfied

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHECKED THESE TWO CATEGORIES

5 4 3 2 1 Challenge 84%
5 4 3 2 1 Location 80%
5 4 3 2 1 Salary and Benefits 56%
5 4 3 2 1 Advancement Potential 80%
5 4 3 2 1 Working Conditions 48%
5 4 3 2 1 Career Potential 64%

27. Are you currently employed in the field of Nursing?

100% Yes
0% No. If not, please indicate why not

_____

_____

IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 31.

28. What is your current employment title?

92% Staff Nurse
0 Charge Nurse
0 Head Nurse
0 Supervisor of Nursing
8% Other _____

29. I am currently working on the:

32% Day Shift
24% Evening Shift
40% Night Shift
4% NO RESPONSE

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30. In what area of medicine are you working?

4% Critical Care
12% D.O.U.
24% Emergency
48% Medical-Surgical
8% Obstetrics
4% Pediatrics
4% Psychiatric
4% Skilled Nursing Facility/TCU
16% Other _____

D. CONTINUING EDUCATION

31. Since completing your program at College of the Canyons, have you enrolled at another educational institution?

16% Yes – 4 STUDENTS
76% No. **IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 38.**
8% NO RESPONSE

32. Please write in the name of the institution.

CAL STATE LA / LA VERNE / COC'S OBSTETRICAL EXTERNSHIP

33. Please write in your intended major or area of study.

BSN / BS - HOSPITAL ADMIN. / MIDWIFE

34. What is the MAJOR reason you continued your education? Check only one.

25% To Satisfy Job/Career Requirements (1)
___ To Learn a New Occupation
___ To Increase Earning Power
___ To Obtain or Maintain a License or Certification
75% For General Self-Improvement (3)

35. How well did College of the Canyons prepare you for continuing your education?

___ Exceptionally Well
75% More than Adequately (3)
25% Adequately (1)
___ Less Than Adequately
___ Very Poorly

36. What grade point average have you achieved at the new institution? (4.0 = A; 3.0 = B; 2.0 = C)

___ 4.0 to 3.5
50% 3.4 to 3.0 (2)
___ 2.9 to 2.5
___ 2.4 to 2.0
___ Below 2.0
OTHER 2 HAD NOT STARTED CLASSES YET.

37. What is the highest degree or certificate you eventualy plan to obtain?

___ I do not plan to Obtain Another Degree or Certificate
___ Technical Program Certificate or Diploma
25% Associate Degree (1)
75% Bachelor's Degree (3)
___ Master's Degree
___ Doctor's Degree (Ph.D., Ed.D.)
___ Professional Degree (MD, JD. pr DDS)
___ Other _____

Thank you for completing this survey.

38. We would like to maintain contact with the Nursing graduates from College of the Canyons. Please print your current name and address on the enclosed postcard and drop it in the mail so that we might make the necessary corrections in the mailing list. Thank you.

Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided to:

Office of Career Education
College of the Canyons
26455 North Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355